

ICBS 2026 Annual Conference Agenda

Monday, Oct. 12th, 2026

9:00am	Registration begins
9:30am	Trainee Presentations Part 1 Chaired by Prof. Zaneta Nikolovska-Coleska, PhD (University of Michigan)
11:30am	Lunch Break on your own
1:00pm	Trainee Presentations Part 2 Chaired by Regan Volk, PhD (UCSF)
3:00pm	Keynote Lecture by Prof. Tanja Kortemme, PhD (UCSF) <i>"AI-guided design of de novo proteins: From new structures to programmable molecular and cellular functions"</i> Chaired by Prof. Michelle Arkin, PhD (UCSF)
4:00pm	Posters, Reception and Networking (Drinks and Snacks Provided)
6:00pm	End of Day 1

Tuesday, Oct. 13th, 2026

9:00am	Keynote Lecture by Prof. Carolyn Bertozzi, PhD (Stanford University) <i>"Bioorthogonal Chemistry and New Therapeutic Modalities"</i> Chaired by Prof. Steven Banik, PhD (Stanford University)
10:00am	Perspectives on the Future of Drug Discovery Chaired by Prof. Walter Moos, PhD (UCSF) Barry Slick (Hinge Bio) <i>"From Drug Discovery to Drug Invention: What Biotechnology's 1st 50 Years Teach Us About the Next 25"</i> Kathlynn Brown (SRI) <i>"Beyond the Target: Layered Specificity for Drug Delivery"</i> Laura Hsieh (Tipping Point) <i>"Unlocking a New Target Space for Epigenetic Medicine"</i> Christopher Phelps (Nurix) Talk TBD Barry Bunin (CDD/Eli Lilly) Talk TBD Vanessa Braunstein (Eli Lilly) Talk TBD
12:00pm	Lunch Break on your own
1:00pm	Frontiers of Molecular Engineering Session Chaired by Prof. Laura Dassama, PhD (Stanford University)

	Prof. Matt Francis, PhD (UC Berkeley) <i>"Chemically Modified Viral Capsids for the Targeted Delivery of Anticancer Therapeutics"</i> Prof. Yimon Aye, PhD (University of Oxford) <i>"Decoding Spatial Bioactivity through Innate Chemical Signaling"</i> Prof. Hideaki Kakeya, PhD (Kyoto University) <i>"Natural products-prompted chemical biology: Development and application of highly sensitive labeling reagents for amino acids, short peptide fragments, and scarce natural products"</i> Lee Schneider, PhD (UCSF) <i>"Molecular Engineering of Protein Nanopores via SuFEx Chemistry and De Novo Design"</i>
3:00pm	Poster Session/ Reception (Drinks/Snacks provided)
4:00pm	Chemical Biology at the Cell Surface Session Chaired by Prof. Ziyang Zhang, PhD (UC Berkeley) Prof. Tania Lupoli, PhD (New York University) <i>"Engineering a sugar salvage enzyme for microbial surface glycan production"</i> Prof. Johanes Morstein, PhD (California Institute of Technology) <i>"Editing and Functionalizing the Lipidome"</i> Prof. James Checco, PhD (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) <i>"Affinity-driven aryl diazonium labeling to study peptide-receptor interactions"</i> Prof. Balyn Zaro, PhD (UC San Francisco) <i>"You Are What You Eat: The Consequence of Phagocytosis at the Macrophage Cell Surface"</i>
6:00pm	End of Day 2
Wednesday, Oct. 14th, 2026	
9:00am	RNA as a Small Molecule Target presented by EFMC Chaired by Prof. Gianluca Sbardella, PhD (University of Salerno) Prof. Amanda Garner, PhD (University of Michigan) <i>"Enabling Technologies for Revealing Druggable Paths in RNA Biology"</i> Prof. Peng Wu, PhD (MPI/TU Dortmund) <i>"RNA modulations by small molecules and bifunctional modalities targeting RNA-modifying proteins"</i> Prof. Steven Banik, PhD (Stanford University) <i>"Reprogrammed Human Argonaute 2 For Targeted RNA Post-Transcriptional Manipulation"</i> Jie Liu, PhD (University of California San Francisco) <i>"Proximity-Inducing Modalities for Protein-RNA Condensates"</i>
11:00am	Coffee break on your own
11:30am	Chemical Neuroscience Session Chaired by Prof. Jason Gestwicki, PhD (UCSF) Prof. Dave Olson, PhD (UC Davis)

	<i>"Psychedelics and Related Plasticity-Promoting Neurotherapeutics"</i> Prof. Evan Miller, PhD (UC Berkeley) <i>"Fiat Lux! Shedding light on cellular physiology and structure"</i> Chimno Nnadi, MD, PhD (UCSF) <i>"Deep Learning Guided Phenotypic Drug Screen Uncovers Structure-Activity-Relationships of Pyrazoloquinolinones"</i> Prof. Pamela England, PhD (UCSF) <i>"Development of a Nurr1-targeting Ligand for the Treatment of Parkinson's Diseases"</i>
1:30pm	Lunch on your own
2:30pm	Chemical Technologies Session Chaired by Boris Vauzeilles, PhD (CNRS) Prof. Brian Paegel, PhD (UC Irvine) <i>"DNA-Encoded Library Screening in Living Bacterial Lawns and Human Tissues"</i> Prof. Stephan Hacker, PhD (Leiden Institute of Chemistry) <i>"Towards Covalent Inhibitors Addressing Diverse Amino Acids - Profiling the Proteome-Wide Selectivity of Electrophilic Compounds"</i> Prof. Billy Wai-Lung Ng, PhD (Chinese University of Hong Kong) <i>"Beyond Degradation: Chemically Induced Proximity for Targeted Protein Glycosylation"</i> Prof. Elena Reckzeh, PhD (University of Bonn) <i>"Organoids in Drug Development"</i>
4:30pm	ICBS Annual Business Meeting (Drinks/Snacks Provided)
5:00pm	ICBS 2026 Young Chemical Biologists Session Chaired by Prof. Peng Wu, PhD (Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology) Prof. Angad Mehta, PhD (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) <i>"In vitro immune-like systems for continuous directed evolution of biologics"</i> Prof. Yilong Zou, PhD (Westlake University) <i>"Chemical basis and intervention of ferroptosis in cancer and tissue injury"</i> Prof. George Burslem, PhD (University of Pennsylvania) <i>"Gain-of-function chemical biology approaches"</i>
6:30pm	ICBS Global Lectureship Award Chaired by Prof. Jonathan Baell, PhD Prof. Peng Chen, PhD (Peking University) <i>"Encoding New Chemistry into Living Systems"</i>
7:00pm	End of Day 3
Thursday, Oct. 15th, 2026	
9:00am	Keynote Lecture by Prof. Georg Winter, PhD (AITHRYA) <i>"Chemical rewiring of biological circuits"</i>

	Chaired by Prof. Michelle Arkin
10:00am	Undruggable Targets Session Chaired by Prof. Balyn Zaro, PhD (UC San Francisco) Prof. William Pomerantz, PhD (University of Minnesota) <i>"Not Your Average BRD4 inhibitor: Selective Inhibitor and Degradar Approaches for Anticancer and Antiinflammatory Epigenetic Therapy"</i> Prof. Ziyang Zhang, PhD (UC Berkeley) <i>"Chemical stimulation of GTP hydrolysis for Ras mutants"</i> Prof. Douglas Mitchell, PhD (Vanderbilt) <i>"Engineering RiPPs into Preclinical Candidates"</i> TBD
12:00pm	Lunch Break on your own
1:00pm	Systems Chemical Biology Session Zaneta Nikolovska-Coleska (University of Michigan) Prof. Margaux Pinney, PhD (UC Berkeley) <i>"High-Throughput Chemical Biology: Quantitative Resistance Landscapes and Allosteric Control"</i> TBD Prof. Seung Bum Park, PhD (Seoul National University) <i>"Phenotypic Discovery of Small-Molecule Therapeutics Powered by AI-driven Rational Design to Modulate Protein-Protein Interactions"</i> Prof. Jason Sheltzer (Stanford University) <i>"A multi-agent AI system for accurately determining drug mechanism-of-action at scale"</i>
3:00pm	Poster Session/ Reception (Drinks/Snacks provided)
4:00pm	Chemical Biology at the Cell Surface Session Chaired by Shuibing Chen (Weill Cornell University) Prof. Itaru Hamachi, PhD (Kyoto University) <i>"In-brain chemical modification of endogenous neurotransmitter receptors for their functional analyses"</i> Prof. Nick Riley, PhD (University of Washington) <i>"Strategies to decode the complexity of the glycoproteome"</i> Prof. Naima Sharaf, PhD (Stanford University) <i>"Engineering Crosslinked Bacterial Lipoprotein-based Nanoparticles"</i> Prof. Laura Dassama, PhD (Stanford University) <i>"Fat forage: how pathogenic bacteria build unusual cell envelopes".</i>
6:00pm	End of Conference